

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EA-06 VO-03 SCA-01 H-02 AID-05

SR-02 ORM-01 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 OPR-02 A-01 SSO-00

L-02 /060 W

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O 040741Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1103

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 520

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: MUSCAT 505

SUMMARY: OMANGOV HAS REJECTED IDEA OF ACCEPTING VIETNAMESE/
CAMBODIAN REFUGEES. END SUMMARY.

1. ZAWAWI INVITED ME TO FOREIGN MINISTRY MAY 4 AND RESPONDED TO OUR APRIL 30 DEMARCHE ON REFUGEES. SAID OMANGOV FEELS IT CANNOT ACCEPT ANY FOR RESETTLEMENT HERE. HE FUSSED AROUND WITH RATIONALE SOMETHING LIKE THIS. OMAN, UNLIKE MANY NATIONS, HAS NO TRADITION OF ACCEPTING GDOUPS OF DISPLACED PERSONS. ITS EXPERIENCE WITH INDIAN TRADING COMMUNITY WHICH HAS BEEN HERE FOR CENTURY OR MORE IS THAT THEY NEVER MIX OR MELT INTO NATIVE POPULATION. IT HAS CAREFULLY BUT EMPHATICALLY DISCOURAGED SETTLEMENT HERE OF "OLD SCHOOL" SOUTH YEMENI REFUGEES FROM ADEN. IT FEARS THAT TO ACCEPT NOW A GROUP EVEN OF SMALL SIZE FROM VIETNAM OR CAMBODIA, WHOSE ETHNIC STOCK SO DIFFERENT FROM OMANIS, WOULD RISK CRITICISM AND PRESSURE FROM SISTER ARAB STATES WHO WOULD POINT TO OMAN AS PROVIDING HAVEN FOR "STRANGERS" WHILE RESISTING PALESTINIAN PRESENCE, REFUGEE OR NON-REFUGEE. AND SO FORTH.

2. WHAT THIS BOILS DOWN TO, UNFORTUNATELY, IS THAT OMAN DOES
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NOT WANT TO BE BOTHERED.

3. I TOLD MINISTER IT WAS "MELTING POT" EXPERIENCE THAT HAD MADE U.S. THE STRONG, RESOURCEFUL STATE AND CIVILIZATION THAT IT IS AND I HAD HOPED OMANGOV MIGHT LOOK AT VIETNAMESE REFUGEE MATTER MORE IN THIS LIGHT. I WAS SORRY THIS WAS NOT SO.

4. REGARDING OMAN'S RECENT DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF SOUTH VIETNAM, ZAWAWI NOTED THIS OVERTAKEN BY CIRCUMSTANCES AND WAS NOW DEAD.
WOLLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MUSCAT00520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750156-0448
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750582/aaaacwyl.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MUSCAT 505
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, MU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006